

**Australian meeting**  
**Wednesday 19 August 1.15 pm**  
**Cape Town International Convention Centre**

**Present:**

Angela Bridgland  
Atlanta Meyer  
Christine Mackenzie  
Eve Woodberry  
Fiona Bradley  
Gaby Haddon  
Gulcin Cribb  
Harlinah Teoh  
Henry Owino  
Jan Richards  
Janet Fletcher

Janine Schmidt  
Judy Brooker  
Karen Conway  
Kerry Smith  
Margaret Allen  
Margo Pickworth  
Megan Sullivan  
Steve O'Connor  
Tricia Genat  
Vicki McDonald

**Introductions**

Margaret Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves and their role in IFLA.

Margaret noted the Australians who have official standing on IFLA sections (list attached) and there are 45 Australians attending this congress.

The purpose of the meeting is to establish if there is interest in establishing an Australian caucus.

**Canadian Caucus**

Janine Schmidt discussed her experience with the Canadian caucus.

The role of the Canadian caucus:

- Encourage people to stand for committees
- An opportunity to hear from the President and Governing Board members
- Organisation of the embassy / consulate party (paid for by government not association)

Support is provided by the National Library in Canada.

CLA takes responsibility for the organisation of the caucus.

**German Caucus**

Barbara Lison described how the German caucus works.

Responsibility lies with the German IFLA committee which was formed to organise the 2003 Berlin Conference and has continued since then. There is a staff member from the German Library Association who provides support to the committee. It has other responsibilities for example the advocacy for the Lyon declaration was through this committee. The Chair of the IFLA committee chairs the caucus. The caucus is for German speakers, not just those from Germany, and it includes representatives from the Austrian and Swiss Library Associations.

The role of the German caucus:

- Provide networking for Germans at the congress Provide information such as how many German participants there are and their roles; introduce the new section officers
- An opportunity to thank people who are specially engaged eg the volunteer translators
- Information sharing through 3 paid bloggers who interview people
- Give out Grants and Awards
- Find sponsorship for hospitality at the meeting
- Encourage networking during the congress

There is a formal agenda and people are invited who can speak at an IFLA strategy level - eg Governing Board member/s, Division Chair/

The IFLA National committee does the lobbying / getting people to stand for office for the different sections.

It nominates a candidate for the Governing Board and lobbies for voting.

The Goethe Institute has a presence in many countries and their representatives can introduce the host country and suggest places to visit.

It is useful to have the caucus early in the conference so people can meet each other and network.

### **General discussion**

It was suggested that there could be better support from ALIA as there is strong representation at IFLA by ALIA members.

There was a query regarding the relationship with the Africa / Asia & Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean Caucus if an Australian caucus is formed.

The question was asked whether we should extend also to New Zealand, it was noted there are 4 New Zealanders attending the conference.

Tricia Genat (ALIA Vice President) indicated that while she could not speak for the Board, she thought that there is a role for ALIA in supporting members participating at IFLA.

It was noted that there is a new editor for Incite and it would be good to get mileage out of the representation at IFLA.

It was also suggested to approach the new CAUL president to form a relationship and encourage University Librarians to become involved.

The meeting agreed that the Framework that Barbara has given regarding the German caucus was very helpful and that we should go ahead and prepare a submission to the ALIA Board including possible Terms of Reference and a clear purpose

### **Next steps**

There was agreement to establish a Committee to work on this:

Eve Woodberry, Jan Richards, Vicki McDonald, Margaret Allen, Janet Fletcher, Tricia Genat, Christine Mackenzie.

A teleconference will be organised in the next few weeks and a place in the Columbus program next year will be requested from IFLA.